

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 221721Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6704

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 0344

EXDIS

FOR NEA

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR JO LE SY EG XF

SUBJECT: LEBANON AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 016199

1. ASSUMPTION HERE ON BASIS MY LAST TALK WITH KING AND BASED ON RADIO REPORTS IS THAT SYRIAN INITIATIVE HAS HAD INITIAL SUCCESS IN CONVINCING LEBANESE PARTIES TO AGREE TO CEASEFIRE AND BEGIN WORK OF ESTABLISHING IT. WE UNDERSTAND BEIRUT RADIO CARRYING REPORTS THAT CEASEFIRE IS TO GO INTO EFFECT AT 20:00 LOCAL AND WE ASSUME THAT SUCCESS OR FAILURE INITIALLY WILL BE DETERMINABLE AT THAT TIME. JORDANIANS FULLY SUPPORT SYRIAN EFFORTS AND WOULD IF WE WISHED, I AM SURE, PUSH SYRIANS TO HANG IN FOR LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.

2. FROM KING'S REMARKS TO ME YESTERDAY, WHICH I WILL TRY TO CONFIRM WITH HIM SHORTLY, IT APPEARED THAT KHADDAM AND COMPANY WERE MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT AND WERE PREPARED TO STAY AS LONG AS HOPE REMAINED OF THEIR BEING ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.

3. WE PRESUME THAT JORDAN WOULD SUPPORT FOREIGN INITIATIVES IF SYRIANS FAILED, BUT CIRCUMSTANCES OF FAILURE WOULD OBVIOUSLY

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HAVE TO BE FACTORED IN TO THEIR THINKING. KING HAS ALREADY

OFFERED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ANY EFFORT AT ACHIEVING THE BASIS
FOR A SETTLEMENT OR IN FOLLOW UP EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT
ANY STEPS THAT COULD BE AGREED UPON, INCLUDING HUMANITARIAN
AND MILITARY PARTICIPATION.

4. KING TOLD ME HE PLANED BE IN PHONE CONTACT WITH ASAD
THIS AFTERNOON. I AM THEREFORE ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM WITH
KING, AND/OR PRIME MINISTER IN FORM OF UPDATE WITHOUT
REFERENCE TO YOUR REQUEST, WHAT THEY KNOW ABOUT CURRENT STATE
OF SYRIAN INITIATIVE, CURRENT STATE OF SYRIAN THINKING, AND
THEIR VIEWS ON WHETHER SYRIA LIKELY TO PERSERVERE IN EVENT OF
INITIAL FAILURE. I WILL REPORT AS SOON AS I CAN GET IN
TOUCH.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, ARMISTICE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN00344
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760024-0845
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760133/aaaabcpt.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 16199
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES
TAGS: PFOR, JO, LE, SY, EG, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006